

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,  
As a citizen who wants to be informed about the political and electoral issues that affect my life, I am greatly disappointed by the lack of informative television programming.

Local public affairs programming is virtually non-existent--constituting less than one half of 1% of all local programming. More than half of news broadcasts prior to the 2002 elections did not include a single campaign story. Our democracy is at risk when many Americans don't know basic FACTS about the candidates or the issues, as was the case in the 2000 elections. Because we have no way to find out.

Since broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest, the FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming. At a very minimum, broadcasters should air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, at a time period when most people can tune in, with at least two hours, in prime time, devoted to substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day. Many people are still undecided at that time, or new information could be available.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy absolutely demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us. It is un-American for our highest officials to be elected by biased newspapers and flashy misleading advertising that is permitted, especially in the last few weeks before going to the polls. This is one of the most important and far-reaching actions of our lives - this time and every time we vote.

Sincerely,

Sue Yost  
14859 Barfield Lane  
Kaufman, TX 751427005